

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>
Open to Public

Note: A digital recording system was used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the materials and handouts are a part of the record as set out in full herein and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

February 11, 2025
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

Governing Board

Seat	Name	Office	Present	Not Present
Aucilla Basin	George Wheeler		X	
Coastal River Basin	Richard Schwab	Vice Chair	X	
Lower Suwannee Basin	Larry K. Thompson		X	
Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins	William Lloyd		X	
Upper Suwannee Basin	Larry Sessions		X	
At Large	Virginia H. Johns	Chair	X	
At Large	Charles Keith	Sec./Treas.	X	
At Large	Harry Smith		X	
At Large	Vacant		-	-

Governing Board Legal Counsel

Name	Firm	Present	Not Present
George T. Reeves	Davis, Schnitker, Reeves & Browning, P.A.	X	

Leadership Team

Position	Name	Present	Not Present
Executive Director	Hugh Thomas	X	
Assistant Executive Director	Tim Alexander	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Amy Brown	X	
Executive Office & Board Coordinator	Robin Lamm	X	

Agenda Item No. 3 - Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair:

ADDITION:

Supplemental Item 1 – Legal Counsel - Common Interest Agreement for Joint Defense with Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DELETION:

Agenda Item No. 29 – Water Resources - Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Sturgeon Research

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comme. None

Agenda Item No. 5- Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent:

- Agenda Item No. 6 - January 14, 2025 Governing Board Meeting Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 10 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beaver Lake, LLC, Suwannee and Madison Counties
- Agenda Item No. 11 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Alliance Grazing Group, LLP, Levy and Gilchrist Counties
- Agenda Item No. 12 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beach Farms, Inc., Gilchrist County
- Agenda Item No.13 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Michael Wilkerson, Levy and Gilchrist Counties
- Agenda Item No. 15 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Sanchez Farms, LLC., Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Suwannee and Lafayette Counties
- Agenda Item No. 16 - December 2024 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 19 - Task Work Assignment with AtkinsRealis, Inc. for Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year 2024 Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning Program Services
- Agenda Item No. 24 - 2025 Florida Forever Work Plan

Mr. Lloyd announced a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on Agenda Item Number No. 5, Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent, which includes Agenda Item No. 11 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Alliance Grazing Group, LLP, Levy and Gilchrist Counties. The conflict-of-interest form was completed and signed by Mr. Lloyd for this item. This form is hereby made part of these minutes and is filed in the permanent Governing Board Meeting minutes files of the District.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
MOTION CARRIED WITH THE EXCEPTION ON MR. LLOYD.

Agenda Item No. 6 - January 14, 2025 Governing Board Meeting Minutes. Approved on Consent

Agenda Item No. 7 - Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations.

- A. Robbie McKinney, Chief, Office of Water Resources, gave a presentation of hydrologic conditions of the District.
- B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations. None

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Supp Item 1 - Common Interest Agreement for Joint Defense with Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, presented this item to the Board.

The Florida Springs Council has challenged the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) proposed rules concerning Outstanding Florida Springs. This rule challenge is styled, *Florida Springs Council, v. Florida Department of Environmental Protection*, DOAH Case No. 25-000274RP. The final hearing is scheduled for March 18 through 20, 2025. FDEP may be interested in using some of the District's professionals as expert witnesses in the above rule challenge. If so, the parties will need to enter into a joint defense agreement for such purposes. Staff requests that the Governing Board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to execute any such joint defense agreements between the District and FDEP as well as any other cooperating water management districts or agencies, if any.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Update. None

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration

Agenda Item No. 9 – Facilities Update. Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration, provided this update to the Board.

Agriculture Projects

Agenda Item No. 10 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beaver Lake, LLC, Suwannee and Madison Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Alliance Grazing Group, LLP, Levy and Gilchrist Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beach Farms, Inc., Gilchrist County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Michael Wilkerson, Levy and Gilchrist Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Shenandoah Dairy, Inc., Suwannee County. Mr. Glass presented this item to the Board.

Cody Darling, Shenandoah Dairy, provided comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 15 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Sanchez Farms, LLC., Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Suwannee and Lafayette Counties. Approved on Consent.

Finance

Agenda Item No. 16 – December 2024 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Resource Management

Agenda Item No. 17 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 18 – Environmental and Agriculture Projects Monthly Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 19 – Task Work Assignment with AtkinsRealis, Inc. for Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year 2024 Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning Program Services. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 20 – Agreement with the Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative. Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division, presented this item to the Board.

Dennis Davis, Wright-Pierce Engineering, provided comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 21 – Amendment to Agreement with the Town of Brooker. Mr. Marshall presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SMITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Marshall discussed the Waccasassa Watershed Flood Risk Review overview with the Board.

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 22 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 23 – Consolidated Annual Report. Troy Roberts, Chief, Communications and Outreach Division, presented this report to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 24 – 2025 Florida Forever Work Plan. Approved on Consent.

Land Acquisition

Agenda Item No. 25 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 26 – Resolution 2025-01, Conveyance of District-Owned LA Bennett Road to Lafayette County. Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Board,

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 27 – Land Management Update Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

WATER RESOURCES

Agenda Item No. 28 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

Minimum Flows and Levels

Agenda Item No. 29 – Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Sturgeon Research. **Deleted**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Agenda Item No. 30 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities and announced the off-site Board Meeting on March 11, 2025, at the North Florida Research Center/IFAS Farm in Live Oak.

Agenda Item No. 31 - Governing Board Comments. None

Agenda Item No. 32 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.



Chair

ATTEST:



